

**MINUTES OF THE  
HIGHER EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
ROOM 210 SENATE BUILDING, STATE CAPITOL COMPLEX  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2012**

Members Present:            Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart, Senate Chair  
                                 Rep. Michael T. Morley, House Chair  
                                 Rep. Jack R. Draxler, House Vice Chair  
                                 Sen. Scott Jenkins  
                                 Sen. Stuart Reid  
                                 Sen. Ross I. Romero  
                                 Sen. Jerry Stevenson  
                                 Sen. John L. Valentine  
                                 Rep. Patrice Arent  
                                 Rep. Bradley M. Daw  
                                 Rep. Becky Edwards  
                                 Rep. Don Ipson  
                                 Rep. Kay L. McIff  
                                 Rep. Douglas Sagers  
                                 Rep. Dean Sanpei  
                                 Rep. R. Curt Webb  
                                 Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

Staff Present:                Mr. Spencer Pratt, Fiscal Manager  
                                 Ms. Angela Oh, Fiscal Analyst  
                                 Lorna Wells, Secretary

A copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the committee minutes.

1. **Call to Order.** Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes.**

**MOTION:** Rep. Arent moved to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2012 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Romero, Sen. Stevenson, Rep. McIff, and Rep. Webb absent for the vote.

**3. Utah Academic Library Consortium (UALC) - Ms. Jean Shipman, Council Chair**

Ms. Shipman mentioned that this year the UALC celebrates 40 years of collaboration and cooperation among non-profit higher education libraries. She noted that the collectiveness of the UALC is its greatest value. They teach workplace skills, provide training, and share digital collections. They save the State money because they have one invoice at a discounted price for the research databases. Last year 6 million people accessed their 34 databases. All library resources are offered to every state student. This year they have received national recognition because of their exemplary digital resources. Because of the expertise within the state, they have acquired and maintained numerous grants. There are over one million items in the digital library and they have plans to add to these collections.

Ms. Shipman reported that the UALC has digitized newspapers from the 1850's from many of the local Utah newspapers for their database. Based on a Massachusetts model, they conducted a return on

investment study. They calculated that with every dollar that is spent there is somewhere between \$10 and \$67 returned. They have requested \$750,000 on-going to help cover the increasing needs and rising costs of electronic databases. They have also requested \$1,000,000 one-time to continue the work of digitizing Utah's newspapers, research articles, and other materials.

**Mr. Dorian Page, Vice President of Finance, Southern Utah University (SUU).** Mr. Page reported that it is essential for SUU to have this centralized system. He asked the Committee to give their request careful consideration.

Rep. Sagers asked about the method of calculating the return on investment. Ms. Shipman responded that the calculator had an itemized price per resource or service. They had each library input the value of each book, journal articles, etc. Then the calculator computes a final return on investment per library.

#### **4. Governor's Budget Recommendations - Ms. Christine Kearn**

Ms. Kearn distributed the handout entitled "Governor's Education Excellence Priorities." She discussed the Excellence in Education Commission which has representation from higher education, public education, the business community, and the Legislature. The Commission has set eight goals for both higher education and public education. She discussed the priorities for higher education. She stated that the first priority is the funding of growth and the Governor's budget request is \$3.0 million.

Ms. Kearn mentioned the Governor's goal of having 66% of the adult population in Utah with some type of post-secondary education degree or certificate by the year 2020. This goal came from an extensive study from Georgetown University. Andrew Carnevale, the leading researcher, took a profile for each state by examining the workforce, population and many other factors. Ms. Kearn said the goal might sound lofty, but it is attainable. They would like to have as many students as possible take college-level classes while still in high school. This is the second priority on the list, the Technology Intensive Early College (TICE) program. The Governor is requesting \$2.5 million. There will be six General Education courses launched this fall. It is hoped that this bank of courses can continue to be built. The goal is to have one-year of college completed while still in high school. Along the Wasatch Front it might be easy for students to access college-level classes; but it is more difficult in rural locations.

Sen. Valentine said that he was intrigued by this on-line technology and intensive early college program. He mentioned that the resources from UEN and the UALC would be vital to this goal. He asked if this budget request included any funding that might be required from these two agencies. Ms. Kearn answered that UEN currently has the capability of delivering these courses. All high schools are connected to UEN. Sen. Valentine asked about the new high schools being built. Ms. Kearn was not aware of any additional funding requests from UEN for this additional connectivity. She agreed that ensuring that UEN has the required resources would be a priority.

Sen. Jenkins asked how TICE ties in with the Electronic High School. Ms. Kearn replied that only high school classes are offered through the Electronic High School. Sen. Jenkins asked who would teach these courses. Comm. Sederburg answered that he would have Dr. White respond to this question. Sen. Stevenson will hold his question for Dr. White as well.

Ms. Kearn said that the third priority is UtahFutures.org which was developed last year in collaboration with many agencies. This is a pathway for students to examine educational opportunities, career choices, and analyzing their own skills and interests. This tool is being enhanced and improved. The Governor has requested \$500,000 to ensure that students continue to have access to this on-line tool.

Co-Chair Urquhart mentioned that last year Higher Education did give support to this new tool. He stated that for FY 2013, Public Education was taking the lead. Commissioner William A. Sederburg confirmed that Public Education is very excited about this new tool and is taking the lead. The staff from UtahFutures.org has already met with the both the Senate Education Standing Committee and the Public Education Appropriations Committee.

Ms. Kearl stated that the Governor's fourth priority is Mission-Based Performance Funding. He is recommending \$5.5 million for this. The Commissioner's Office is looking at metrics and measures to examine outcomes, course completion, earning certificates, as well as diplomas.

Co-Chair Urquhart mentioned that he is sponsoring a bill which would allow institutions to start implementing performance based funding. Each institution would be called upon to determine performance metrics and a target performance measurement. Ms. Kearl stated that the Governor is congruent with this, recognizing that each institution is uniquely different. The Governor's office doesn't have a perfect recipe. They would allow the institutions to come up with what the recipe for their own institution would be. Co-Chair Urquhart mentioned that the bill will have intent language giving money to the institutions to come up with ways to measure their performance and to measure completion rates.

Comm. Sederburg reminded the Committee that the institutions have given the Committee a general idea of how they would use this money and what would be some possible measuring devices. He stated that this would be a good place to start.

Ms. Kearl explained that the Governor's fifth goal is to continue to build the Utah Cluster Acceleration Program (UCAP), with a request of \$1.0 million. She stated that this is the Higher Education version of the Custom Fit program. She used the example of the partnership of Weber State with businesses in the aerospace industry. The institutions would work with local businesses and industries to determine what degrees and certificates are needed. In some cases, businesses might help with tuition costs.

Comm. Sederburg mentioned that engagement at a programmatic level is relatively new to Utah. He reported on the past success of the UCAP program and that it is also a high priority for the Commissioners' office. He stated that one of the questions is how to reach out to businesses in a meaningful way.

Ms. Kearl stated that the Governor's sixth priority is the establishment of a Women's College Task Force. Former Gov. Olene Walker and Regent Bonnie Jean Beesley chaired this committee. Utah has the widest gap in the nation between men and women completing degrees. Utah women matriculate into college at the same rate, but do not complete. The Governor would like to launch this project which would include public relations, media, and outreach programs. The task force would encourage women to obtain A.A.S. degrees and certificates.

Rep. Arent asked if part of the funding request is for publicity. Ms. Kearl stated that this funding would be used to launch the entire project from the beginning stages. The intent would definitely include publicity, public relations, and fund raising.

## **5. Concurrent Enrollment Presentation - Chuck Wight, Dean of the Graduate School, University of Utah**

Mr. Wight explained the Utah TICE Project which is redesigning Concurrent Enrollment with hybrid courses. With this program K-12 and Higher Education have been brought together. He reported that this project came in below budget and can now be expanded. He explained some of the project goals. They

would like to increase access to college courses especially during the senior year of high school. The main focus will be core learning outcomes through high-quality General Education courses. These outcomes will be measured by thorough assessments. They will strengthen the extensive course articulation and transfer system that exists in Utah Higher education. The six pilot courses are: ART 1010 (Introduction to Visual Arts), CHEM 1010 (Introduction to Chemistry), ENGL 1010 (Introduction to Writing), Math 1010 (Intermediate Algebra), Math 1030 (Mathematical Decision Making, and PSY 1010 (Introduction to Psychology). These courses are made available to Utah colleges and high schools through the Instructure Canvas Learning Management System. These hybrid courses blend in-class and on-line course delivery methods. In-class activities would focus on the things that work best in a face to face environment.

Mr. Wight discussed the backward course design process. The first step is to focus on learning objectives and then work backward to design assessment, and course design. He discussed the Bloom's taxonomy on learning model and how this correlates with the hybrid design. TICE emphasizes standardization for each course, which would include standardized rubrics and communication on how the scoring system works. Instructors will identify possible outcomes and whether these outcomes exceeded expectations, met expectations, or did not meet expectations. The assessment data will be aggregated and made public. Some of the key drivers for the success of this project include increased access to college-level courses, greater student learning outcomes, reduced or eliminated cost of textbooks through the use of open education materials, reduced cost of instruction, and strengthened course transfer agreements.

Mr. White specifically mentioned some of the potential savings through TICE. The utilization of open source course materials represents a savings of \$50-200 per student. These savings would also be realized by districts. In addition, TICE saves on instructional costs (instructor salaries). This savings is variable, but perhaps up to \$60 per student (one-third); savings would be realized by public or higher education if teaching loads are redistributed. This is because the time spent with an instructor in the classroom is decreased and the difference is made up with graduate teaching assistants.

Mr. White showed a video about MATH 1030. He suggested that the Committee go to the website [www.uen.org/concurrent](http://www.uen.org/concurrent) to view the video in more depth

Sen. Stevenson stated that there are several ways students can get college credit from high school. He asked why there are so many different opportunities. He also asked if this dovetails with what is already being done

Comm. Sederburg answered that one of the past challenges with Concurrent Enrollment was to find teachers at the high school level who are qualified. After that there is often little guidance for how the course is delivered. The technology now allows content to be consistent and prepared at the state level. Concurrent enrollment faculty will then be asked to be teachers of content that has already been set up. He mentioned the positive aspect of the hybrid courses, because courses delivered entirely on-line are not as effective with high school students.

Sen. Stevenson asked how this is delivered and if it will be delivered to each high school from one institution. Comm. Sederburg answered that an agreement will be made between a higher education institution and the high school. He said that this is entirely within the Concurrent Enrollment framework, and much like the current system of negotiation between institutions and districts. The difference is that a common set of materials can be delivered state-wide. Sen. Stevenson asked if it would be more efficient to deliver content out of one institution. Comm. Sederburg answered that the current strong Concurrent Enrollment network is also tied to funding streams; so it is more pragmatic to do it within the current system following current policy. In the future, all General Education courses will be offered within this

format. The number of different offerings in Concurrent Enrollment will be reduced in favor of more General Education courses.

Sen. Valentine observed that the math teacher in the video was from Pleasant Grove High School. He stated that in the past there has been an issue with articulation among some state institutions who would not grant credit when the classes were taken as Concurrent Enrollment classes.

Comm. Sederburg responded that although Utah is a national leader in articulation; one difficult area has been in Math. With the new TICE program there is a common core and better communication among these institutions. Transferring these credits should be given by any of the state institutions. Sen. Valentine mentioned that in some cases institutions would grant a lower grade than the actual grade given in a Concurrent Enrollment classes. Comm. Sederburg said that this should not be the case. He reported that the Commissioner's office will continue to work on articulation.

Rep. McIff said that he was aware that Utah is a national leader in articulation. He wanted to know where Utah would be placed on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being perfect articulation. Comm. Sederburg said that if judged nationally, it would probably be about an 8 or 8.5. If the rating were based on everything that could possibly be done in articulation, the score would probably be a 6. He mentioned that the first step was the common course numbering agreement that was set up several years ago. They do need to work more on CTE courses and be more clear on certificates. He discussed the fact that sometimes articulation is difficult and there is some tension. Credit should now always be given with respect to General Education requirements. As far as other department-specific courses, students do get at least elective credit. The Commissioner's office could do a better job on a course counting towards a specific degree.

Co-Chair Urquhart thanked the TICE team, Ron Bigelow, and the Governor for this very exciting work. He discussed the fact that Utah State University and Utah Valley University recently sent out letters that they cannot continue doing what they have been doing with Concurrent Enrollment without funding. They do recommend that there be an associated cost of up to \$30 per credit hour. High school students could take the course for free; however, if they wanted college credit, they would have to pay for that. Co-Chair Urquhart would like to empower the Board of Regents to figure out the details and he would then try to pass a bill regarding this. He stated that many high school students are receiving college credit, but it doesn't necessarily track towards a degree.

Rep. Ipson mentioned that he is very supportive of this measure.

Rep. Arent wanted to know if \$30 would actually cover the cost.. Comm. Sederburg stated that the \$30 comes from the fact that the price for taking a 3-credit AP Exam is \$90 or \$30 per credit. Most institutions have indicated that this would be somewhat of a break-even point.

Co-Chair Urquhart stated that the current cost per credit hour at Dixie is \$137, so this is still a bargain.

Co-Chair Morley reported that a main priority for Concurrent Enrollment is to be more focused on General Education. Students should not waste time and energy on credits that may or may not be on their future area of focus. He feels that this cost will also enhance the number of completers.

Comm. Sederburg discussed the fact that there would be intense feelings about this issue. Many individuals feel very strongly about the tenet of free public education. This is different in higher education which has a pay-as-you-go framework. He also mentioned the situation where a student takes a college-level class in high school, but does not pay for the college credit and then later wants the class to count for college credit.

Rep. Sagers explained that he agreed completely with the premise, but wondered about students who are disadvantaged. He thought that his program might be deepening that disadvantage.

Co-Chair Urquhart answered that this is a valid concern. He stated that in setting pricing, there would have to be some consideration given to waivers and assistance for economically disadvantaged individuals.

## **6. Committee Discussion/Final Prioritization and Voting**

The Committee chairs distributed a handout listing some preliminary budget priorities for discussion with the Committee.

Rep. Arent asked if this information could be sent electronically. Mr. Pratt agreed to do this.

Co-Chair Urquhart stated that the first priority is the development of a college readiness assessment tool. He stated that because there is more disruption to the college experience, students in Utah need to be more prepared. He proposed that USHE put together a tool that high school juniors can take at no cost, and in a few minutes be able to discover where their deficiencies lie. Each student would get their own measurement and if they don't measure up there would be a recommended course of action.

Co-Chair Urquhart stated that the second priority would be 1 percent increase in compensation. The Governor's budget requested this for all State Employees, and the Committee felt the same provision should be made for employees in the USHE system.

Co-Chair Urquhart reported that the third priority would be the Legislative Fiscal Analyst Issue Briefs. Mr. Pratt explained that these are the items that were discussed at the previous meeting. Co-Chair Urquhart explained that the last item in this group would be a partnership with Public Education to purchase an array of Microsoft Certification Programs available to every high school student in the state, as well as all UCAT campuses and Salt Lake Community College.

Co-Chair Morley recommended that the numbering of the priorities be changed slightly. The 4th priority would be equity funding and institutional priorities. A separate fifth category would be made and the items in this category would need to be prioritized.

Sen. Valentine asked for clarification on this, restating that the Fourth priority would be Equity Funding and after that the items are listed in no particular order. Co-Chair Morley replied that was correct. Sen. Valentine asked for staff to give a total net effect for the LFA Issue Briefs. Mr. Pratt will prepare this information and distribute it to Committee members.

Co-Chair Morley also discussed the fact that currently universities that are charging a premium for engineering degrees. It would be the Committee's recommendation to discourage this surcharge. This seems to be a disincentive to pursue engineering degrees and doesn't make sense when there is a critical need for engineers in the State.

Co-Chair Urquhart mentioned that dollar amounts for these items could also be changed. For example, the funding request for the UCAT Waiting List could be altered, this was the request to help alleviate the back log in certain UCAT programs.

Co-Chair Morley asked that the Committee look at these priorities and determine a ranking before the next meeting on Wednesday evening.

Rep. Draxler stated that the Committee had heard many compelling presentations. He felt one of the most compelling was the Engineering Initiative. He felt that this item should be ranked as high as Number 3, one reason is because of the large return on investment.

Rep. Arent asked for clarification about where funding for the much needed University of Utah Infrastructure was listed. Mr. Pratt indicated that this was a capital project, heard in the Infrastructure General Government Committee. She also mentioned that she is hopeful that SLCC will receive some of the \$8 billion proposed to be given to Community Colleges by Pres. Obama.

Rep. Edwards asked for information about the dollar amount listed for the college readiness assessment tool. She wanted to know if this is a new program and if it were pared down, would it cover the whole state?

Co-Chair Urquhart reported that this was an estimate given by the Commissioner's Office and that this money should be listed as one-time funding. Co-Chair Urquhart mentioned that any of the dollar amounts listed could be pared down so that other items might be funded.

Rep. Ipson asked when there might be a better indication of how much money might be available. Mr. Pratt answered that he is unsure of this at the present time.

Rep. McIff supports splitting some of those funds so more items could receive some funding.

Co-Chair Morley asked the Committee to be prepared to have a discussion about prioritizing all of these items at the meeting on Wednesday evening at 5:00 p.m. in this same room.

**MOTION:** Rep. Ipson moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. Co-chair Morley adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

Minutes were reported by Lorna Wells, Secretary.

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Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart, Senate Chair

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Rep. Michael T. Morley, House Chair